

# **INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER**

**United States Embassy  
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago**

## **Bimonthly Newsletter**

**No. 5/08**

**September-October 2008**

Our Bimonthly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks. **Some links may need to be copied and pasted.**

The views expressed in these materials are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. Government policies. Federal government documents are almost always in the public domain and thus have no copyright restrictions. Other sources may claim limited or complete copyright.

### **DEMOCRACY**

**CUBA: U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL AND REMITTANCES.** Congressional Research Service, RL31139, Library of Congress. Mark P. Sullivan. Web posted August 10, 2008

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL31139\\_20080730.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL31139_20080730.pdf) [PDF format, 35 pages]

Restrictions on travel to Cuba have been a key in United States efforts to isolate the communist government of Fidel Castro for much of the past 40 years. Over time, there have been numerous changes to the restrictions, and for five years, from 1977 until 1982, there were no restrictions on travel to Cuba. The House Appropriations Committee reported its version of the FY2009 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill on June 25, 2008, with provisions that would ease restrictions on family travel. It would allow for such travel once a year, instead of the current restriction of once every three years, to visit aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and first cousins in addition to immediate family.

**MEDIA METRICS: THE TRUE STATE OF THE MODERN MEDIA MARKETPLACE.** Progress & Freedom Foundation. Adam Thierer and Grant Eskelsen. Web posted July 17, 2008

<http://www.pff.org/mediametrics/Media%20Metrics%20%5BVersion%201.0%5D.pdf> [PDF format, 99 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Debates about the state of the media marketplace continue to garner interest in Washington. Many policymakers, regulators, and consumer groups bemoan the supposed lack of "localism," ownership concentration and an absence of quality programming as a rationale to further regulate in the media sector. The report shows that, contrary to what some media critics believe, there are more media choice, competition, and diversity than ever before. The report offers a comprehensive look at a variety of media sectors such as audio, video and print, providing policymakers with a snapshot of the media sector.

**MORE AMERICANS QUESTION RELIGION'S ROLE IN POLITICS.** Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. August 21, 2008

<http://pewforum.org/newassets/images/reports/summer08/survey.pdf> [PDF format, 63 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Some Americans are having a change of heart about mixing religion and politics. The survey finds a narrow majority of the public saying that churches and other houses of worship should keep out of political matters and not express their views on day-to-day social and political matters. For a decade, majorities of Americans had voiced support for

religious institutions speaking out on such issues. As a result, conservatives' views on this issue are much more in line with the views of moderates and liberals than was previously the case.

## **ECONOMIC PROSPERITY**

**A CALL FOR A STRATEGIC U.S. APPROACH TO THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS.** Center for Strategic & International Studies. Web posted July 31, 2008

[http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/080728\\_food\\_security.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/080728_food_security.pdf) [PDF format, 14 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

In response to the growing global food crisis, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) launched a task force to assess the rising humanitarian, security, developmental, and market impacts of rising food costs and shortages. It argues for modernizing and doubling emergency assistance, elevating rural development and agricultural productivity to be new foreign policy priorities. It also calls for revising the U.S. approach to bio-fuels so that fuel and food security objectives are not in conflict with each other.

**ARE LOW FOOD PRICES PRO-POOR?: NET FOOD BUYERS AND SELLERS IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES.** World Bank. M. Ataman Aksoy and Aylin Isik-Dikmelik. June 2008

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2008/06/03/000158349\\_20080603171459/Rend ered/PDF/wps4642.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2008/06/03/000158349_20080603171459/Rend ered/PDF/wps4642.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The study examines the characteristics of food sellers and buyers in nine low-income countries. Three of the nine countries examined showed a substantial proportion of vulnerable households affected by the food price increases. The average incomes of food buyers were found to be higher than food sellers in eight of the nine countries examined. Thus, food price increases would transfer income from generally higher income food buyers to poorer food sellers. The analysis also finds that the occupations and income sources of sellers and buyers in rural areas are significantly different. In rural areas where food production is the main activity and where there are limited non-food activities, the incomes of buyers might depend on the incomes and farming activities of food sellers.

**BANK STRUCTURE AND THE TERMS OF LENDING TO SMALL BUSINESSES.** Harvard Business School. Rodrigo Canales and Ramana Nanda. Web posted June 24, 2008

<http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/08-101.pdf> [PDF format, 35 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Using loan-level data from Mexico, the study examines the relationship between the organizational structure of banks and the terms of lending to small businesses. The banks with decentralized lending structures, where branch managers have autonomy over the terms of lending, give larger loans to small firms, particularly in states with weak legal enforcement of financial contracts. However, decentralized banks are also more responsive to the competitive environment when setting loan terms. They are more likely to restrict credit and to charge higher interests rates when they have market power, more so to smaller firms that have fewer outside options for external finance.

**BIOFUELS AND THE FOOD PRICE CRISIS: A SURVEY OF THE ISSUES.** Center for Global Development. Kimberly Elliott. Web posted August 11, 2008

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/16499?print=1&id=16499&datatype=5> [Link to the PDF document]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

While the precise contribution of bio-fuels to surging food prices is difficult to know, policies promoting production of the bio-fuels are not achieving objectives of increased energy independence or reduced greenhouse gas emissions. It has been known that the net energy and greenhouse gas emission benefits of corn-based ethanol are relatively small because its production is energy-intensive. Recent scientific studies suggest that the current generation of bio-fuels, including bio-diesel made from palm oil, soybeans, and rapeseed, as well as corn-based

ethanol, actually add to greenhouse gas emissions relative to petroleum-based fuels when land use changes are taken into account.

**CREATING VALUE FOR ALL: STRATEGIES FOR DOING BUSINESS WITH THE POOR.** Development Programmes, United Nations. Web posted July 5, 2008

[http://www.undp.org/gimlaunch/docs/GIM\\_EN.pdf](http://www.undp.org/gimlaunch/docs/GIM_EN.pdf) [PDF format, 180 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report showcases 50 studies by researchers predominantly from developing countries. These case studies demonstrate the successful pursuit of both revenues and social impact by local and international small- and medium-sized companies, as well as multinational corporations. The report highlights five strategies used successfully to overcome the most common obstacles to doing business with the poor, as well as two new tools: a strategy matrix to help find potential solutions to common constraints and heat maps that identify opportunities by depicting access to water, credit, electricity or telephone service in a specific geographical area using color codes. More inclusive business models recognize the poor not only as consumers, but also as drivers of growth.

**CREDIBILITY CRUNCH: FOOD, POVERTY, AND CLIMATE CHANGE: AN AGENDA FOR RICH-COUNTRY LEADERS.**

Oxfam International. June 2008

[http://www.oxfam.org/en/files/bp113\\_credibility\\_crunch\\_g8\\_%202008\\_080613.pdf/download](http://www.oxfam.org/en/files/bp113_credibility_crunch_g8_%202008_080613.pdf/download) [PDF format, 38 pages]

This year, 2008, is the halfway point towards the deadline for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), agreed by 147 nations in the year 2000. They focus on tackling poverty, hunger, gender inequality, education, health, water, sanitation, and the environment. The goals are to achieve safe births, provide medicine for curable diseases, educate girls, provide clean water, and eliminate hunger. These are seen as realistic targets that, with concerted action, can be reached in order to banish extreme poverty.

**CREDIT RISK TRANSFER: DEVELOPMENTS FROM 2006-2007.** Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. Web posted August 3, 2008

<http://www.bis.org/publ/joint21.pdf?noframes=1> [PDF format, 87 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The paper explains the causes of the credit market turmoil. It focuses on two financial instruments that have been used widely to transfer credit risk: collateralized debt obligations referencing (CDOs) and collateralized loan obligations (CLOs).

**EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.** Congressional Research Service, RS22915, Library of Congress. Julie M. Whittaker. Web posted July 21, 2008

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22915\\_20080711.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22915_20080711.pdf) [PDF format, 5 pages]

The Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program was created by P.L. 110-252. The new temporary unemployment insurance program provides up to 13 additional weeks of unemployment benefits to certain workers who have exhausted their rights to regular unemployment compensation (UC) benefits. The program effectively begins July 6, 2008, and will terminate on March 28, 2009. No EUC benefit will be paid beyond the week ending July 4, 2009.

**FACT SHEET: TREASURY RELEASES BEST PRACTICES FOR RESIDENTIAL COVERED BONDS.** Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Treasury Department. July 2008.

<http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/reports/factsheet.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages]

The U.S. Treasury Department aims to encourage additional sources of mortgage finance and to strengthen financial institutions. A covered bond is secured debt instrument that provides funding to a depository institution, collateralized by high-quality mortgage loans that remain on the issuer's balance sheet. Covered bonds have the potential to increase funding for mortgages and to strengthen financial institutions by offering them a new funding source that will diversify their overall funding portfolio.

**FANNIE MAE'S AND FREDDIE MAC'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.** Congressional Research Service, RS22916, Library of Congress. N. Eric Weiss. Web posted July 21, 2008  
[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22916\\_20080715.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22916_20080715.pdf) [PDF format, 6 pages]

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, chartered by Congress as government sponsored enterprises (GSEs), are widely believed to have an implicit guarantee from the federal government. Questions about their roles are covered by the report in light of today's economic environment.

**FISHERIES OF THE UNITED STATES, 2007.** National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Science and Technology. July 2008.

[http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/fus/fus07/fus\\_2007.pdf](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/fus/fus07/fus_2007.pdf) [PDF format, 118 pages]

The average American ate 16.3 pounds of fish and shellfish in 2007, a one percent decline from the 2006 consumption figures of 16.5 pounds, according to the study. Americans consumed a total of 4.908 billion pounds of seafood in 2007, slightly less than the 4.944 billion pounds in 2006. The U.S. continues to be ranked the third largest consumer of fish and shellfish, behind China and Japan. The nation imports about 84 percent of its seafood, a steadily increasing proportion. Imports accounted for only 63 percent of U.S. seafood just a decade ago.

**GENERATIONS OF STRUGGLE.** AARP Public Policy Institute. Deborah Thorne et al. June 2008

[http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/consume/2008\\_11\\_debt.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/consume/2008_11_debt.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

With more than a million people filing for bankruptcy in 2007, the study shows that the rate of bankruptcy filings among those 65 and older has more than doubled since 1991. While the bulk of bankruptcy filers are in their 30s and 40s, the financial landscape for the oldest and youngest generations has changed considerably. Americans age 55 or older have experienced the sharpest increase in bankruptcy filings, jumping from 8.2% of debtors in 1991 to 22.3% in 2007. Those ages 34 or younger experienced the greatest decrease in bankruptcy filings, comprising nearly half (45.5%) in 1991 to just over a quarter (26.1%) in 2007 of all bankrupt debtors.

**INCREASING ANNUITIZATION IN 401(k) PLANS WITH AUTOMATIC TRAIL INCOME.** Brookings Institution. William G. Gale et al. June 2008

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/06\\_annuities\\_gale/06\\_annuities\\_gale.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/06_annuities_gale/06_annuities_gale.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The paper proposes a policy that would increase the role of lifetime income products in future retirees' overall retirement planning. Over the next few decades, a substantial number of workers will retire with larger balances in their retirement accounts and have fewer sources of longevity protection than retirees today. Therefore, the resources must be managed to ensure that they last throughout their retirement. Lifetime income products would be beneficial for many because payments are made for life and they mitigate the risk of running out of resources late in life. Despite the benefits of lifetime income, current retirees do not use lifetime income products very much and future retirees are unlikely to do so under current arrangements.

**INTERNATIONAL ENERGY OUTLOOK 2008: HIGHLIGHTS.** Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy. Web posted June 25, 2008

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/ieo/pdf/highlights.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages]

World marketed energy consumption is projected to grow by 50 percent between 2005 and 2030, driven by robust economic growth and expanding populations in the world's developing countries, according to the report. Average world oil prices in each year since 2003 have been higher than the average for the previous year and prices in 2007 were nearly double the 2003 prices. Although liquid fuels are expected to remain the largest single source of energy through 2030, the liquids share of marketed world energy consumption declines from 37 percent in 2005 to 33 percent in 2030. The share of conventional oil in the overall liquids supply is in decline with expanded use of unconventional oil, bio-fuels, and other unconventional liquids.

**IS THE COST OF GAS LEADING AMERICANS TO USE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION?** [AARP Public Policy Institute]. Laura Skufca. Web posted August 13, 2008

[http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/gas\\_costs.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/gas_costs.pdf) [PDF format, 14 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The survey examines older Americans' perceptions of their communities, their support for complete street policies, and the likelihood of their using alternative transportation as gasoline prices rise. Results from this survey of Americans age 50 and older show, that while many are exploring other means of transportation, neighborhood infrastructure is less than optimal. Four in ten respondents (40%) said they have walked more frequently, rode a bicycle, or used public transportation since gas prices have risen. More than one-quarter of respondents (29%) indicated that they are walking more frequently to get where they need to go. Almost all respondents are concerned about gas prices. More than two-thirds of respondents (67%) have limited their daily driving and more than six in ten (61%) have cut back on other expenses in order to accommodate high gas prices.

**KID'S SHARE 2008: HOW CHILDREN FARE IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET.** Urban Institute. Adam Carasso et al. Web posted June 25, 2008

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411699\\_kids\\_share\\_08\\_report.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411699_kids_share_08_report.pdf) [PDF format, 40 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

According to the study, children are a diminishing priority in the federal budget. If current spending and revenue policies continue, the children's share of domestic federal spending, which excludes defense, non-defense homeland security, and international affairs, will be 13.8 percent in 2018, down from 16.2 percent in 2007 and 20.2 percent in 1960. While domestic spending is projected to grow by \$771 billion, largely because of escalating health care costs, between now and 2018, children will reap only 7.1 percent, or \$55 billion, of this increase under current law. The report defines "children" as those under age 19 who are not in postsecondary education.

**LEGACY OR COMPLACENCY? LULA'S UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN BRAZIL.** American Enterprise Institute. August 2008

[http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.28435/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.28435/pub_detail.asp) [HTML format, various paging]

Brazil, South America's most populous continental power, has strung together a few decades of sound economic policies and pluralistic governance to become an example of how a multiethnic democracy and free market economy can help millions pull themselves out of poverty. The report states that President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has made impressive strides during his tenure. He has demonstrated that antipoverty programs are good business and that economic growth is objectively better when the opportunity that comes with it is shared more equitably. It is hoped that he continues his efforts in the remainder of his term.

**OPEC REVENUES FACT SHEET.** Energy Information Administration. Web posted August 12, 2008.

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC\\_Revenues/Factsheet.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC_Revenues/Factsheet.html) [HTML format, various paging]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Energy Information Administration estimates that members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) earned \$671 billion in net oil export revenues in 2007, a 10 percent increase from 2006. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$194 billion, representing 29 percent of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earning reached \$1,137, an 8 percent increase from 2006. Through July, OPEC had earned an estimated \$642 billion in net oil export earnings in 2008.

**RETIREMENT VULNERABILITY OF NEW RETIREES: THE LIKELIHOOD OF OUTLIVING THEIR ASSETS.** Ernst & Young, LLP. & Americans for Secure Retirement. July 2008

[http://www.paycheckforlife.org/uploads/2008\\_E\\_Y\\_RRA.pdf](http://www.paycheckforlife.org/uploads/2008_E_Y_RRA.pdf) [PDF format, 26 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Almost three out of five new middle-class retirees will outlive their financial assets if they attempt to maintain their pre-retirement standard of living, according to the study. It also finds that middle-income Americans entering retirement now will have to reduce their standard of living by an average of 24 percent to minimize the likelihood of outliving their financial assets. Those Americans seven years out from retirement are even less prepared and the study estimates that they will have to reduce their standard of living by even more, an average of 37 percent.

### **RUNNING ON FUMES: RISING GAS PRICES ADD TO THE STRAIN ON FAMILIES' ALREADY SQUEEZED BUDGETS.**

Center for American Progress. Amanda Logan and Christian E. Weller. Web posted July 1, 2008

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/06/pdf/food\\_gas.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/06/pdf/food_gas.pdf) [PDF format, 20 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Families across America are struggling with higher prices for gas and food along with record unemployment rates, flat wages, and the deepening housing crisis. In April 2008, gasoline prices shattered an inflation-adjusted record that had stood since March 1981, and they have only continued to soar since then, hitting new record highs almost weekly. Increased gasoline expenditures disproportionately affect lower-income families. The second lowest income quintile devoted 5.4 percent of their average annual expenditures to gasoline and motor oil in 2006, while the highest income quintile devoted just 3.7 percent.

### **SHAPING POLICIES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET ECONOMY.** Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development. June 2008

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/1/29/40821707.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The aim of the OECD Ministerial is to promote the Internet economy, a concept inclusive of the full range of economic, social and cultural activities supported by the Internet and related information and communication technologies. The report provides policy directions and guidance in 20 areas aimed at facilitating convergence, stimulating creativity, strengthening confidence, and expanding the opportunities for global economic, social and cultural development. It integrates work from five OECD Committees responsible for information and communication technologies, consumer policy, education, public governance, health and development.

### **SLOW-MOTION RECESSION: WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO TO HELP.** Center for Economic and Policy Research. Eileen Appelbaum et al. July 2008

[http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/stimulus2\\_2008\\_07.pdf](http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/stimulus2_2008_07.pdf) [PDF format, 14 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report presents several proposals designed to address the nation's current economic slowdown. The authors suggest a second stimulus package, which includes an expanded tax credit for homes and businesses to make energy conserving renovations, subsidies for state and local governments to reduce fares on public transportation, and additional payments to low- and moderate-income households through programs such as Food Stamps, School Lunches and the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program to make it easier for families to cope with rising food and energy prices.

### **STATE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY.** Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association. Susan Golonka and Linda Hoffman. Web posted June 23, 2008

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0806POVERTYBRIEF.PDF> [PDF format, 20 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Poverty has long-term social and economic costs for children and families, communities, and states. In 2006, more than 13 million children lived below the federal poverty level. Children who grow up poor are more likely to earn less as adults, complete fewer years of formal education, and face more health issues than children living in higher-income families. Poverty has large repercussions for states and the nation, with childhood poverty alone estimated to cost the U.S. economy approximately \$500 billion annually. The study examines the long-term social and economic costs of poverty for children and families, communities and states. It also explores several policy and program options to reduce the negative consequences of poverty for children and increase opportunities for families to achieve economic success.

### **THE BUFFETT PLAN FOR REDUCING THE TRADE DEFICIT.** Levy Economics Institute, Bard College. Dimitri B. Papadimitriou et al. July 2008

[http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp\\_538.pdf](http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_538.pdf) [PDF format, 40 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The paper examines a plan proposed by Warren Buffett, in which importers would be required to obtain certificates



proportional to the amount of non-oil goods and possibly also services they brought into the country. These certificates would be granted to firms that exported goods. Exporting firms could then sell certificates to importing firms on an organized market. Starting from a relatively neutral projection of all major variables for the U.S. economy, the report estimates that the plan would raise the price of imports by approximately 9 percent, quickly reducing the current account deficit to about 2 percent of GDP. The possible instability in the price of certificates and retaliation by U.S. trade partners are included in the paper.

**THE STATE OF OUR NATION'S YOUTH 2008-2009.** Horatio Alger Association. Web posted August 24, 2008

<http://www.horatioalger.org/pdfs/0708SONY.pdf> [PDF format, 80 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Teens are feeling the weight of the world now more than ever, according to a new report issued today. There has been a steep drop-off in the number of students feeling hopeful and optimistic about the future of the country, falling from 75% in 2003 to just 53% today. Despite these declining views of a fading nation, teens are nonetheless positive as they envision their own futures. With 88% describing themselves as confident and 66% saying they feel optimistic about their own futures, they are making strides towards achieving success as young adults.

**THE UNPAID CARE WORK-PAID WORK CONNECTION.** Levy Economic Institute, Bard College. Rania Anonopoulos. Web posted August 6, 2008

[http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp\\_541.pdf](http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_541.pdf) [PDF format, 96 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The gender-based wage differentials and occupational segregation continue to characterize the division of labor among men and women in paid work. However, unpaid work in social reproduction, subsistence production, family businesses, and the community is often ignored. Beyond the obvious gender inequalities, unpaid work constitutes an integral part of any functioning economy, and as such is linked to economic growth, government policy, migration, and many development issues. The paper concludes that gender equality must be understood through the paid-unpaid work continuum.

**THE YEAR IN TRADE 2007. U.S. International Trade Commission.** Web posted August 6, 2008

<http://hotdocs.usitc.gov/docs/pubs/332/pub4026.pdf> [PDF format, 229 pages]

The report provides a practical review of U.S. international trade laws and actions in 2007, a summary of the operation of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and an overview of U.S. free trade agreements and negotiations and of U.S. bilateral trade relations with major trading partners. It also includes complete listings of antidumping, countervailing duty, safeguard, intellectual property rights infringement, and section 301 cases undertaken by the U.S. government in 2007.

**TRENDS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 2008-2009.** Economics & Social Affairs, United Nations. June 2008

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/trends2008/fullreport.pdf> [PDF format, 42 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Efforts to reduce poverty and improve food security in developing countries are hampered by declining support for strong agricultural growth, long considered a hallmark of successful poverty reduction strategies, according to the study. The report highlights recent trends in agriculture, rural development, land, desertification and drought – five of the six themes being considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development. Strong agricultural growth is four times more effective than growth in other sectors in benefiting the poorest half of the population, the report finds. However, while many developing countries have posted gains in agricultural production, distribution and exports, people living in areas of high inequality and in isolation from the broader economy typically benefit little from them.

**VOICES OF WOMEN IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.** International Finance Corporation, World Bank. June 11, 2008

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/2008/06/16/0003333038\\_20080616010031/Rendered/PDF/441850WP0REPLA1oicesOWomen01PUBLIC1.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/2008/06/16/0003333038_20080616010031/Rendered/PDF/441850WP0REPLA1oicesOWomen01PUBLIC1.pdf) [PDF format, 48 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The Indonesian Women's Business Association (IWAPI) has a membership of nearly 16000 members spread over all 30 provinces engaging in various sectors, such as industry, service, education, trade, mining, and other sectors. A majority of women entrepreneurs in Indonesia are engaged in the micro, small and medium scale enterprises. They serve as agents of change by contributing considerable economic activity and the creation of new job opportunities. Despite the significant role that women play in entrepreneurship and the fact that some women entrepreneurs have achieved considerable business success, a large number continue to face daunting challenges and barriers in operating their business.

**WHAT'S DRIVING FOOD PRICES?** Farm Foundation. July 2008.

<http://www.farmfoundation.org/news/articlefiles/404-FINAL%20WDFP%20REPORT%207-21-08.pdf> [PDF format, 84 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Understanding the complex and multiple factors influencing food prices today is important as future policy options are debated, according to the study. Economic growth and rising human aspirations are putting greater pressure on the global resource base. The study identifies three broad sets of forces driving food price increases: global changes in production and consumption of key commodities, the depreciation of the U.S. dollar, and growth in the production of bio-fuels.

**WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? BEST AND WORST PRACTICES IN FOREIGN AID.** Global Economy & Development, Brookings Institute. William Easterly and Tobias Pfutze. June 2008

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/06\\_foreign\\_aid\\_easterly/06\\_foreign\\_aid\\_easterly.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/06_foreign_aid_easterly/06_foreign_aid_easterly.pdf) [PDF format, 34 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The study focuses on the best practices in aid. First, it discusses best practice for an ideal aid agency and the difficulties that aid agencies face because they are typically not accountable to their intended beneficiaries. Second, it considers the transparency of aid agencies and other dimensions of aid practice. Forty-eight aid agencies are compared along these dimensions, distinguishing between bilateral and multilateral ones. The rankings are presented as an illustrative exercise to move the aid discussion forward.

**WORLD TRADE INDICATORS 2008.** World Bank. Roumeen Islam and Gianni Zanini. Web posted June 29, 2008

<http://info.worldbank.org/etools/wti2008/docs/mainpaper.pdf> [PDF format, 150 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Over the last decade, countries have improved many aspects of policy relevant for trade. The most recent estimates indicate that all regions and income groups have witnessed substantial real growth in trade during this time. In 2007, average real growth in trade, 7.7 percent for the world as a whole, is within the 7–9 percent growth range of the last decade. Groups that have the best policies and institutions overall also tend to have stronger and more consistent trade performance. The trade reform agenda going forward is about rationalizing substantial tariff peaks, particularly in agriculture, reducing overall tariff levels in some groups or countries, reducing tariff escalation aimed at protecting special goods, liberalizing services trade, and improving the other behind-the-border factors that affect trade expansion and the gains from it.

**WORLD TRADE REPORT 2008: TRADE IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD.** World Trade Organization. Web posted July 18, 2008

[http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/booksp\\_e/anrep\\_e/world\\_trade\\_report08\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/anrep_e/world_trade_report08_e.pdf) [PDF format, 204 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Trade and globalization have brought greater prosperity to hundreds of millions as well as greater stability among nations, according to the report. Trade has allowed nations to benefit from specialization and economies of scale to produce more efficiently. It has raised productivity, supported the spread of knowledge and new technologies, and enriched the range of choices available to consumers. But deeper integration into the world economy has not always proved popular, nor have the benefits of trade and globalization necessarily reached all sections of society.



The report is devoted to an examination of the gains from international trade and the challenges arising from higher levels of integration.

## **EDUCATION**

**BRIDGING THE GLOBAL DIGITAL DIVIDE, ONE LAPTOP AT A TIME.** Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

June 11, 2008

<http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/articlepdf/1978.pdf?CFID=70003010&CFTOKEN=62356046&jsessionid=9a30110e3d615d17e142> [PDF format, 4 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The non-profit One Laptop per Child (OLPC) program unveiled the second version of its XO laptop, which is designed to bring affordable, modern technology to children in developing countries. The researchers of the study say that the focus on third world countries is promising, but they question whether these efforts will be effective. Non-profits see technology as a way to improve education. Meanwhile, technology companies see a good cause and billions of potential customers.

**HIGHER EDUCATION AND COLLEGES: A COMPARISON BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE USA.** Council for Industry and Higher Education. Madeleine King et al. Web posted June 16, 2008

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Content/ContentGroups/Headline\\_News/June\\_2008/cihe\\_report.pdf](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Content/ContentGroups/Headline_News/June_2008/cihe_report.pdf) [PDF format, 28 pages]

United Kingdom and United States colleges play distinctive roles in delivering higher level learning that reaches students from diverse backgrounds, focus on meeting local needs and is vocational in its emphasis. In the U.S., this distinctiveness is lauded and forms part of an integrated approach across many States. The success of U.S. Community Colleges is a system of funding by transferable credit which is responsive to local need and which facilitates roll-on roll-off participation. In the U.K., these inherent strengths are less appreciated. In England, this non-linear progression is still viewed as 'dropping out' rather than 'dropping in'.

**HOW AMERICA PAYS FOR COLLEGE.** SallieMae and Gallup. Web posted August 20, 2008

<http://www.salliemae.com/content/dreams/pdf/AP-Report.pdf> [PDF format, 62 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Working with Sallie Mae, Gallup has developed the mathematically representative picture of how the typical American family pays for college based upon in-depth statistical analysis of a nationwide survey of more than 1,400 parents and students. In addition, the study provides critical insight into the attitudes, choices, and concerns of American families in how they plan and pay for college.

**REVITALIZING ARTS EDUCATION THROUGH COMMUNITY-WIDE COORDINATION.** Rand Corporation. Susan J. Bodilly et al. June 2008

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND\\_MG702.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG702.pdf) [PDF format, 109 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Arts education has been a low priority in the nation's public schools for more than 30 years. Severe fiscal crises in America's urban centers in those years exacerbated the situation as schools responded by cutting teaching positions, especially non-core subject areas. More recently, the general education reforms, such as the No Child Left Behind Act, that hold schools accountable for standardized test scores in mathematics and reading led to neglect of arts education. In a countermovement, some urban centers have developed initiatives aimed at coordinating schools, cultural institutions, community-based organizations, foundations, and/or government agencies to promote access to arts learning for children in and outside of school.

**THE HIGH COST OF HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS.** Alliance for Excellent Education. June 2008

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/HighCost.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

If the high school dropouts from the Class of 2008 had instead earned diplomas along with their classmates, the nation's economy could have benefited from an additional \$320 billion in wages, taxes, and productivity over these students' lifetimes, according to the calculations by the Alliance for Excellent Education. The average annual income for a high school dropout in 2005, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, was almost \$10,000 less than for a high school graduate. Raising the numbers of students who graduate, therefore, increases overall earnings potential, which, in turn, benefits each state and the nation with increased purchasing power and higher tax receipts.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**ANALYSES AND EFFECTS OF GLOBAL CHANGE ON HUMAN HEALTH AND WELFARE AND HUMAN SYSTEMS.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Janet L. Gamble et al. Web posted July 19, 2008

<http://downloads.climate-science.gov/sap/sap4-6/sap4-6-final-all.pdf> [PDF format, 284 pages]

The report discusses the potential impacts of climate change on human health, human welfare, and communities. The factors include the elderly, the poor, children, and people with chronic medical conditions. The report also identifies adaptation strategies to help respond to the challenges of a changing climate and identifies near- and long-term research goals for addressing data and knowledge gaps.

**CLIMATE RESILIENT CITIES: 2008 PRIMER.** World Bank. Web posted August 6, 2008.

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/Resources/climatecities\\_fullreport.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/Resources/climatecities_fullreport.pdf) [PDF format, 176 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Climate change is a current reality when loss from flooding and hurricanes is too frequent occurrence in many countries in the East Asia Region, particularly in cities where people and assets are concentrated. Urban centers need to be prepared with specialized tools to deal with climate change impacts and early warning systems. Moreover, given the potential devastation associated with future climate change-related disasters, it is vital to change the way people build and manage the cities, which account for 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions today. The report is a tool for city governments in the East Asia Region to better understand how to plan for climate change impacts and impending natural disasters through sound urban planning to reduce vulnerabilities.

**CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE: A STRATEGY FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.** Council on Foreign Relations. June 2008

[http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Climate\\_ChangeTF.pdf](http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Climate_ChangeTF.pdf) [PDF format, 137 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report recommends that the United States leverage ambitious, comprehensive, and equitable action at home to advance an effective policy abroad. It lays out a U.S. negotiating strategy for a global climate accord, outlining what the U.S. should be willing to offer and what it should expect others, including the rapidly emerging economies, to do in return. However, it also cautions that a comprehensive post-Kyoto climate deal will not be easy to conclude, noting: "Even as the United States pursues ambitious and mandatory policies at home, it should not sign on to an emissions cap as part of any global deal that does not include strong commitments to actions from the major emerging economies." It recommends creating a Partnership for Climate Cooperation that would focus the world's largest emitters, including India and China, on implementing aggressive emissions reductions.

**DARK HORIZONS: 10 NATIONAL PARKS MOST THREATENED BY NEW COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS.** National Parks Conservation Association. Web posted June 29, 2008

[http://www.npca.org/darkhorizons/pdf/Dark\\_Horizons\\_Report.pdf](http://www.npca.org/darkhorizons/pdf/Dark_Horizons_Report.pdf) [PDF format, 33 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

One in three national park sites have air pollution levels that exceed health standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Most of the air pollution marring the parks' scenic views, harming plants, and risking the health of wildlife and visitors, results from the burning of fossil fuels, especially by coal-fired power plants. Over the objections of its own scientists, and those at the National Park Service, the EPA has proposed regulatory changes

that will make it easier to build new, polluting coal-fired power plants near national parks. The report highlights the ten national parks most at risk from air pollution from coal-fired power plants, and calls for action to protect and preserve the national parks.

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN URBAN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES.** Tomas Rivera Policy Institute and Asia Pacific American Legal Center. Web posted July 18, 2008

[http://www.trpi.org/PDFs/DISASTER\\_REPORT\\_Final.pdf](http://www.trpi.org/PDFs/DISASTER_REPORT_Final.pdf) [PDF format, 36 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The study finds that immigrant and limited English proficient populations are not fully incorporated in disaster preparedness educational efforts and emergency response plans. The study examines selected Latino and Asian immigrant communities in Southern California for disaster education and response preparations. The findings include a lack of disaster preparedness materials in languages other than English that reflect the demographics of the service populations and a shortage of bilingual staff and volunteers among emergency response crews and nonprofits that typically do outreach during emergencies.

**HOT OR NOT? RECOGNIZING AND PREPARING FOR CLIMATE-INDUCED ILLNESS.** American Sociological Association. Sabrina McCormick. Web posted August 23, 2008

[http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=sabrina\\_mccormick](http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=sabrina_mccormick) [PDF format, 40 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

According to the report, climate change is detrimentally affecting the lives and health of many people and is resulting in 160,000 annual deaths globally, caused by vector borne diseases, food insecurity, and heat waves. The report presents an analytical framework for the newly recognized and socially-contested category of “climate-induced illnesses.” Illnesses recently recognized as exacerbated by climate change are examined along with illness crisis management.

**IMPACTS ON U.S. ENERGY EXPENDITURES AND GREENHOUSE-GAS EMISSIONS OF INCREASING RENEWABLE-ENERGY USE.** RAND Corporation. Michael Toman et al. Web posted June 25, 2008

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2008/RAND\\_TR384-1.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2008/RAND_TR384-1.pdf) [PDF format, 74 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The penetration of renewable energy into the marketplace has been small, held back principally by their higher cost relative to fossil energy. The report assesses the potential impacts on U.S. consumer energy expenditures and national CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of producing 25 percent of U.S. electric power and motor-vehicle transportation fuels from renewable resources by the year 2025. It shows that increasing renewable energy use can reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and enhance energy security by lowering the cost of imported petroleum. However, a large, inexpensive, easily converted biomass supply is necessary for significantly increased renewable-energy use to have a relatively low impact on consumer energy expenditures.

**INCREASING VULNERABILITY TO HURRICANES: GLOBAL WARMING’S WAKE-UP CALL FOR THE U.S. GULF AND ATLANTIC COASTS.** National Wildlife Federation. August 21, 2008

[http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/Hurricanes\\_FNL\\_LowRes.pdf](http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/Hurricanes_FNL_LowRes.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

While Florida and Gulf Coast residents bear the brunt of Tropical Storm Fay, the latest science connecting hurricanes and global warming suggests more is yet to come: tropical storms are likely to bring higher wind speeds, more precipitation, and bigger storm surge in the coming decades. The study details how: hurricanes are getting stronger as oceans warm; increasing coastal population and development puts people in harm’s way; hurricanes affect wildlife; wetlands are the first line of defense against hurricanes; and to reduce risks and prepare for future hurricanes.

**THE NORTH AMERICAN MOSAIC: AN OVERVIEW OF KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.** Commission for Environmental Cooperation. Tundi Agardy et al. June 2008

[http://www.cec.org/files/PDF/Mosaic-2008\\_en.pdf](http://www.cec.org/files/PDF/Mosaic-2008_en.pdf) [PDF format, 66 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

In its latest report, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) examines environmental issues facing the NAFTA partners. The report addresses issues related to air and atmosphere, biodiversity and ecosystems, pollutants, and water. Specific topics include climate change, species of concern, including the critically endangered vaquita porpoise, and the quality and quantity of water shared between the North American nations. With the advice of environmental reporting experts from the three countries, the report draws on information from national and international sources for a broad overview of North America's environment.

## **GLOBAL ISSUES**

**THE DEVELOPING WORLD IS POORER THAN WE THOUGHT, BUT NO LESS SUCCESSFUL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY.** World Bank. Shaohua Chen and Martin Ravallion. Web posted August 26, 2008

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2008/08/26/000158349\\_20080826113239/Rended/PDF/WPS4703.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2008/08/26/000158349_20080826113239/Rended/PDF/WPS4703.pdf) [PDF format, 46 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The paper presents a major overhaul to the past estimates of global poverty, incorporating new and better data. Extreme poverty is found to be more pervasive than previously thought. However, the data also provide significant evidence of continually declining poverty incidence and depth since the early 1980s. Progress was uneven across regions. The poverty rate in East Asia fell from 80% to under 20 percent over this period. By contrast it stayed at around 50 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa, though with signs of progress since the mid 1990s.

## **HEALTH**

**A FORK IN THE ROAD: OBAMA, MCCAIN, AND HEALTH CARE.** CATO Institute. Michael D. Tanner. July 29, 2008

<http://cato.org/pubs/bp/bp104.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Senator Obama's approach to health care reform relies heavily on government mandates, regulations, and subsidies. He would mandate that employers provide health care coverage for their workers and parents purchase health insurance for their children. He would significantly increase regulation of the insurance industry, establishing a standard minimum benefits package, and requiring insurers to accept all applicants regardless of their health. In contrast, John McCain emphasizes consumer choice and greater competition in the health care industry. He would move away from our current employment-based insurance system by replacing the current tax exclusion for employer-provided insurance with a refundable tax credit for individuals. At the same time he would sharply deregulate the insurance industry to increase competition.

**EXPLORING THE LINKS BETWEEN HIV/AIDS, SOCIAL CAPITAL, AND DEVELOPMENT.** World Bank. Antonio C. David and Carmen A. Li. Web posted July 23, 2008

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2008/07/23/000158349\\_20080723111217/Rended/PDF/WPS4679.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2008/07/23/000158349_20080723111217/Rended/PDF/WPS4679.pdf) [PDF format, 31 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The study quantifies the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on social capital with cross-country data. Using data from the World Values Survey, the authors estimate reduced-form regressions of prevalence, institutional quality, social distance, and economic indicators, which are the main determinants of social capital controlling for HIV. The results indicate that HIV prevalence affects social capital negatively. Moving from a country with a relatively low level of HIV prevalence, such as Estonia, to a country with a relatively high level, such as Uganda, there is a more than 11 percent point decline in social capital.

**F AS IN FAT: HOW OBESITY POLICIES ARE FAILING IN AMERICA 2008.** Trust of America's Health. Jeffrey Levi et al. Web posted August 24, 2008

<http://www.rwif.org/files/research/081908.3424.fasinfat.pdf> [PDF format, 144 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The study reports that the rates of obesity in the United States have grown in 37 states. Although many promising programs have emerged to promote healthy eating and exercise, they are not preventing the spread of obesity. More than 25 percent of adults are obese in 28 states, while more than 20 percent of adults are obese in every state except Colorado. Moreover, not one state showed a decrease in numbers of obese people. The authors recommend that the federal government convene a partnership of state and local governments, businesses, and schools to implement a strategy to tackle obesity

#### **IS DIETARY KNOWLEDGE ENOUGH?: HUNGER, STRESS, AND OTHER ROADBLOCKS TO HEALTHY EATING.**

Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Lisa Mancino and Jean Kinsey. August 2008

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR62/ERR62.pdf> [PDF format, 29 pages]

Poor diets and rising obesity rates among Americans persist despite increased public awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. The report presents a consumer demand model to illustrate how both long-term health objectives and immediate visceral influences, long intervals between meals and eating away from home, can drive individuals' food choices.

#### **MEDICAL TOURISM: CONSUMERS IN SEARCH OF VALUE.** Deloitte Center for Health Solutions. Web posted August 8, 2008

[http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us\\_chs\\_MedicalTourismStudy%281%29.pdf](http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us_chs_MedicalTourismStudy%281%29.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The impact of rising U.S. health care costs is prompting increasing numbers of consumers to consider outbound medical tourism as a viable care option. In 2007, an estimated 750,000 Americans traveled abroad for medical care; this number is anticipated to increase to 6 million by 2010. Concurrently, inbound medical tourism and medical tourism across state lines continue to present opportunities for specialty hubs offering treatments unavailable elsewhere in the world or in a community setting.

#### **PROGRESS ON DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION: SPECIAL FOCUS ON SANITATION.** World Health Organization, United Nations. Web posted July 20, 2008

[http://www.wssinfo.org/pdf/JMP\\_08.pdf](http://www.wssinfo.org/pdf/JMP_08.pdf) [PDF format, 58 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Every day, over 2.5 billion people suffer from a lack of access to reliable sanitation and nearly 1.2 billion practice open defecation, the riskiest sanitary practice of all, according to the report. The report assesses global, regional and country progress using an innovative "ladder" concept. This shows sanitation practices in greater detail, enabling experts to highlight trends in using improved, shared and unimproved sanitation facilities and the trend in open defecation. Worldwide, however, the number of people who lack access to an improved drinking water source has fallen below one billion for the first time since data were first compiled in 1990.

#### **SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY ON AIDS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS.** Center for Global Development. Nandini Oomman. August 5, 2008

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/16459> [Download PDF file, 72 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Donors spend billions of dollars to fight HIV/AIDS in developing countries, but poor integration between donors and host country health systems risks undermining international efforts to prevent and treat AIDS. The report finds that the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the World Bank's Multi-Country AIDS Program for Africa have helped establish AIDS-specific systems and processes distinct from those of other health programs. At the same time, these AIDS-specific processes use many of the same resources as a country's broader health system.

#### **TOWARD A GLOBAL VIEW OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, CANNABIS, AND COCAINE USE: FINDINGS FROM THE WHO WORLD HEALTH SURVEYS.** PLoS Medicine. Louisa Degenhardt et al. Web posted July 2, 2008

[http://medicine.plosjournals.org/archive/1549-1676/5/7/pdf/10.1371\\_journal.pmed.0050141-L.pdf](http://medicine.plosjournals.org/archive/1549-1676/5/7/pdf/10.1371_journal.pmed.0050141-L.pdf) [PDF format,

15 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The study presents novel data on the epidemiology drug use from representative, cross-national samples representing all regions of the world. Clear differences in drug use exist across the regions of the world, with the U.S.'s estimated to have among the highest levels of both legal and illegal drug use among all countries surveyed. These differences may be closing in more recent birth cohorts, with higher levels of drug use seen among young adults across countries. Drug use is related to income, but does not appear to be simply related to drug policy, since countries with more stringent policies towards illegal drug use did not have lower levels of such drug use than countries with more liberal policies.

**TUBERCULOSIS: INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS AND ISSUES FOR CONGRESS.** Congressional Research Service, RL34246, Library of Congress. Tiaji Salaam-Blyther. Web posted June 22, 2008

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34246.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages]

Infectious diseases are estimated to cause more than 25% of all deaths around the world. International air travel and trade have complicated efforts to detect and contain infectious diseases. People could cross borders carrying a highly contagious disease before an infectious agent causes symptoms. World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that the global incidence of TB per capita peaked around 2003 and since then, incidence per 100,000 population stabilized in Europe and declined in all five WHO regions, although the number of new cases increased between 2005 and 2006 in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Southeast Asia. In sub-Saharan Africa, weak health systems, minimal access to health facilities, insufficient staffing and little human resource development, ill-equipped and substandard laboratories, and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) co-infection have limited countries' ability to contain TB.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT / SECURITY / ILLEGAL DRUGS**

**A LOOK AT TERRORIST BEHAVIOR: HOW THEY PREPARE, WHEN THEY STRIKE.** National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. Brent Smith. Web posted July 31, 2008

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/222900.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages]

There is very little information available on terrorists' behavioral patterns. Research has shown that traditional criminals are spontaneous, but terrorists seem to go to great lengths preparing for their attacks and may commit other crimes while doing so. The study finds that most terrorists live close to their selected targets, and they engage in a great deal of preparation, some over the course of months or even years, that have the potential of coming to the attention of local law enforcement.

**COURTING HISTORY: THE LANDMARK INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT'S FIRST YEARS.** Human Rights Watch. July 2008

<http://hrw.org/reports/2008/icc0708/icc0708webwcover.pdf> [PDF format, 252 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[Note: contains potentially sensitive material]

The report, which assesses the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s first five years, notes that the ICC has made notable progress in bringing justice for the worst crimes despite mistakes in policy and practice. It urges greater international support of the ICC to meet the political and financial challenges ahead. The court was created to bring justice to the victims of gross human rights violations; so far the court has issued arrest warrants against suspects in four countries, though none have yet been tried.

**DRUG CONTROL: COOPERATION WITH MANY MAJOR DRUG TRANSIT COUNTRIES HAS IMPROVED, BUT BETTER PERFORMANCE REPORTING AND SUSTAINABILITY PLANS ARE NEEDED.** U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Web posted August 14, 2008

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08784.pdf> [PDF format, 65 pages]

Each year, criminal organizations transport hundreds of tons of illegal drugs from South America to the United



States through a 6 million square mile “transit zone” including Central America, the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the eastern Pacific Ocean. Since fiscal year 2003, the United States has provided over \$950 million to support counter narcotics efforts in transit zone countries, which historically lacked the capacity to interdict drugs.

**FACT SHEET: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EFFORTS TO COMBAT CYBER CRIMES.** U.S. Department of Justice. August 5, 2008

[http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/pr/press\\_releases/2008/08/08-05-08\\_fact-sheet-doj-efrt.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/pr/press_releases/2008/08/08-05-08_fact-sheet-doj-efrt.pdf) [PDF format, 3 pages]

President Bush created an interagency Identity Theft Task Force. After examining government and private sector efforts in the identity theft area, the Task Force issued a report with 31 recommendations to improve our efforts to combat identity theft. These recommendations include protecting personal data in the private and public sector, investigating and prosecuting data breaches and related identity theft, and assisting victims of identity theft. The Task Force has worked to implement the recommendations over the last year across the government and with its private sector and international partners.

#### **INTELLIGENCE REFORM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY: POLICY ISSUES AND ORGANIZATIONAL**

**ALTERNATIVES.** Congressional Research Service, RL34595, Library of Congress. Alfred Cumming. August 12, 2008

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/RL34595.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages]

In 2006, Congress temporarily consolidated separate counterintelligence (CI) offices at the Department of Energy and the National Security Administration (NNSA) into a single CI office under DOE control. DOE had complained that the dual office structure was ineffective. At the same time, in 2006, DOE combined its separate Offices of Intelligence, and Counterintelligence into a new DOE office called the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence. The report analyzes both consolidations; the first authorized by Congress at DOE’s request and the second initiated by DOE, and examines the impact of each on the effectiveness of the Department’s CI program.

**INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY.** Congressional Research Service, RL34543, Library of Congress. Liana Sun Wyler. Web posted July 6, 2008

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34543\\_20080623.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34543_20080623.pdf) [PDF format, 42 pages]

The report provides an overview of U.S. international drug control policy. It describes major international counter narcotics initiatives and evaluates the broad array of U.S. drug control policy tools currently in use. It also considers alternative counter drug policy approaches to international drug control initiatives and raises several counter drug policy issues and considerations for policy makers. The high priority of terrorism in U.S. foreign policy has resulted in increased attention to links between drug and terror groups; a challenge facing policy makers, however, is how to avoid diverting counter drug resources for anti-terror ends in areas of potentially low payoff.

#### **JOURNALISTS’ PRIVILEGE: OVERVIEW OF THE LAW AND LEGISLATION IN THE 109<sup>TH</sup> AND 110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSES.**

Congressional Research Service, RL34193, Library of Congress. Henry Cohen and Kathleen Ann Ruane. Web posted August 20, 2008

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/secrecy/RL34193.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages]

The Supreme Court holds that the First Amendment did not provide even a qualified privilege for journalists to refuse “to appear and testify before state or federal grand juries.” However, 49 states have adopted a journalists’ privilege in various types of proceedings. Journalists have no privilege in federal proceedings. On July 6, 2005, a federal district court in Washington, DC, found Judith Miller of the New York Times in contempt of court for refusing to cooperate in a grand jury investigation relating to the leak of the identity of an undercover CIA agent. The court ordered Ms. Miller to serve time in jail. Ms. Miller spent 85 days in jail. She secured her release only after her informant gave her permission to reveal his identity. Congress has considered creating a journalists’ privilege for federal proceedings, and bills to adopt a journalists’ privilege have been introduced in the 109th and 110th Congresses, in both the House and the Senate.

**MONEY LAUNDERING IN DIGITAL CURRENCIES.** National Drug Intelligence Center, U.S. Department of Justice. Web posted July 21, 2008

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs28/28675/28675p.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages]

Digital currencies combine the intrinsic value of gold and other precious metals as well as the designated value of

national currencies with the worldwide reach of the Internet to create an ideal mechanism for international money laundering. Users can anonymously fund digital currency accounts, send those funds (sometimes in unlimited amounts) to other digital currency accounts worldwide, and effectively exchange the funds for foreign currencies--often while bypassing U.S. regulatory oversight.

**NATURALIZATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES: 2007.** Office of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Nancy Rytina and Selena Caldera. July 2008.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/natz\\_fr\\_07.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/natz_fr_07.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages]

This report presents information on the number and characteristics of foreign nationals who became American citizens during fiscal year 2007.

**QUICKLY, CAREFULLY, AND GENEROUSLY: THE NECESSARY STEPS FOR A RESPONSIBLE WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ.**

Report of the Task Force for a Responsible Withdrawal from Iraq. June 2008

<http://www.comw.org/pda/fulltext/taskforceresponsiblewithdrawal.pdf> [PDF format, 34 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Iraq is a traumatized and politically fragmented country. Neighboring states may be tempted to intervene in Iraq's internal conflicts to protect their own interests. The United States and the international community bear a responsibility to contribute to the alleviation of suffering and the advancement of stability and peace in Iraq. It was the consensus of the expert Advisory Group that there is little the United States can do to achieve those goals as long as it maintains an open-ended military presence in Iraq. In the context of withdrawal, however, there are many measures the United States and international community can take to maximize the chances for progress. The United States can quickly carry out a full military withdrawal from Iraq, carefully pursue diplomatic remedies for the Iraq crisis, and generously give to help rebuild Iraq in the long run.

**THE COST OF IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND OTHER GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR OPERATIONS SINCE 9/11.**

Congressional Research Service, RL33110, Library of Congress. Amy Belasco. Web posted June 29, 2008

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RL33110.pdf> [PDF format, 64 pages]

With enactment of the FY2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R.2764/P.L. 110-161) on December 26, 2007, Congress has approved a total of about \$700 billion for military operations, base security, reconstruction, foreign aid, embassy costs, and veterans' health care for the three operations initiated since the 9/11 attacks: Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Afghanistan and other counter terror operations; Operation Noble Eagle (ONE), providing enhanced security at military bases; and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). The \$700 billion total covers all war-related appropriations from FY2001 through part of FY2008. The report estimates that Iraq will receive about \$524 billion (75%), OEF about \$141 billion (20%), and enhanced base security about \$28 billion (4%), with about \$5 billion that cannot allocate (1%).

**WELFARE PAYMENTS AND CRIME.** National Bureau of Economic Research. C. Fritz Foley. June 2008.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14074.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The study tests the hypothesis that the timing of welfare payments affects criminal activity. An analysis of major crime incidents in twelve U.S. cities reveals an increase in crime over the course of monthly welfare payment cycles. This increase reflects an increase in crimes that are likely to have a direct financial motivation like burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and robbery, as opposed to other kinds of crime like arson, assault, homicide, and rape. Temporal patterns in crime are observed in jurisdictions in which disbursements are focused at the beginning of monthly welfare payment cycles.

**WORLD DRUG REPORT 2008.** Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations. Web posted June 28, 2008

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr/WDR\\_2008/WDR\\_2008\\_eng\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr/WDR_2008/WDR_2008_eng_web.pdf) [PDF format, 310 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report presents comprehensive information on the illicit drug situation. It provides detailed estimates and trends on production, trafficking and consumption in the opium/heroin, coca/cocaine, cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulants markets. The drug problem is being contained but there are warning signs that the stabilization

which has occurred over the last few years could be in danger. Notable amongst these is the increase in opium poppy and coca cultivation in 2007, growth in consumption in developing countries, and development of new trafficking patterns. There have also been encouraging contractions in some of the main consumer markets. Almost one hundred years since the Shanghai Opium Commission in 1909, the report presents an historical review of the development of the international drug control system.

---

7-9 Marli Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel: (868) 822-5576/5563 / Fax: (868) 822-5574  
<http://trinidad.usembassy.gov>